

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, **claims 31-47** are pending in the application, with claims **31, 34, 38, and 43** being the independent claims. Claims **1-30** are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims **31-47** are sought to be added. Support for the new claims is found throughout the specification. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

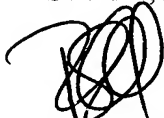
The specification was amended to correct minor informalities and to be consistent with amendments made in the parent application (allowed U.S. Patent Application No. 10/163,871). The drawings have also been amended to correspond with the amended specification. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

### ***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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